

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-13 are respectfully requested. Applicant has attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated October 11, 2006 (Paper No. 20061001) and believes the application is now in condition for allowance. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

Applicant affirms that during a telephone conversation between the Examiner and Applicant's attorney, a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Species I, claims 1-5 and 8-13. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

The disclosure is objected to because of minor informalities. Accordingly, on page 1, line 7, "fabrice" has been amended to read "fabric." Further, on page 5, line 9, reference number "11" was inserted after the term "sockets." Applicant has also amended the specification to correct typographical and grammatical errors, and submits that no new matter has been added.

Claim 8 stands objected to because of minor informalities. Accordingly, in lines 7 and 8, the term "longitudinal" has been inserted before the term "steel," and in lines 16 and 17, the term "cross" has been inserted before the term "steel." Applicant respectfully traverses the objection of claim 8.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staples (U.S. Pat. No. 2,870,823). Staples discloses a seat or back structure including side frame or rail members 10 and end frame members 11. Springs "S" having relatively square shaped loops are mounted on the side rails 10 at attaching ends 14. The ends 14 each include a loop portion 15 extending from the end at substantially a right angle to the spring and located on an inner side of the rail 10. A bridge portion 16 of the spring is connected to the loop portion 15 and extends across the top of the rail 10, and an angular section 17 having a leg 18 is provided on the outer side of the rail 10, where the leg is received in rail opening 19. (FIG. 4; col. 3, ll. 21-47).

In contrast, amended claim 1 now recites, among other things, "...one or more longitudinal steel wires, both ends of which are hooks, a first end hook of each said steel wire encloses a part of the outer portion of one of said cross rails and is secured by being directly inserted into one of the first sockets at the outer portion of said first cross rail, a second end hook of each said steel wire encloses a part of the outer portion of one of said cross rails and is secured by being directly inserted into one of the second sockets at the outer portion of said second rail, said first end hook and said second end hook remaining free of contact with an inner portion of said first and second cross rails..."

Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is patentably distinct from Staples. Specifically, in Staples, the hook portion 15 of the spring is provided on the inner side of the rail 10, and also includes an angular section 17 abutting the

outer side of the rail. In contrast and as recited in amended claim 1 of the above-identified application, the hooks 31, 41 are engaged in corresponding sockets 11, 21 provided on the outer portion of the rail 1, 2. The hooks 31, 41 remain free from contact with the inner portion of the rail, as shown in FIGs. 3 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Platt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,733,625). Platt discloses a spring deck 10 including side strands 12 and cross wires 14 that are attached to the side strands at their ends. The side strands 12 include springs 36, 40 that are attached thereto at one end and are attached to frame members 28, 30, 32 and 34 at an opposite end. The springs 36 have hooked ends that are received in holes 38, 44 generally centrally located in the frame members 28, 30, 32, 34. (FIGs. 1 and 2).

With respect to amended claim 1, Applicant submits that as amended, claim 1 is patentably distinct from Platt. Specifically, in Platt, the longitudinal steel wires 14 have hooked/knotted ends 22 that wrap around side strands 12. The steel wires 14 are not directly attached to the frame members 28, 30. In contrast, in amended claim 1 the longitudinal wires have hooked ends that are directly inserted into an outer portion of the first and second cross rails or frame members of the wire netting.

Claim 8 has also been amended and now recites, among other things, "...one or more longitudinal steel wires, both ends of which are hooks , a first end

hook of each longitudinal steel wire encloses a part of the outer portion of a cross rail, and is secured by being directly inserted into one of the first sockets at the outer portion of the first cross rail, a second end hook of each longitudinal steel wire encloses a part of the outer portion of a cross rail, and is secured by being directly inserted into one of the second sockets at the outer portion of the second cross rail...one or more cross steel wires, both ends of which are hooks, a first end hook of each cross steel wire encloses a part of the outer portion of a longitudinal rail, and is secured by being directly inserted into one of the third sockets at the outer portion of the first longitudinal rail, a second end hook of each cross steel wire encloses a part of the outer portion of a longitudinal rail, and is secured by being directly inserted into one of the fourth sockets at the outer portion of the second longitudinal rail..."

Applicant submits that as amended, claim 8 is patentably distinct from Platt. Specifically, in Platt, the cross wires 14 and the side strands 12 are not directly attached to the frame members 28, 30, 32, 34. Rather, the side strands 12 include spring members 36, 46 that are attached at one end to the side strands and are attached at an opposite end to a respective frame member 28, 30, 32 or 34. The opposite end of the hooks 36, 46 is received in a hole 38, 44 generally centrally located on the frame member 28, 30, 32 or 34, as shown in FIG. 2 of Platt. In contrast, as recited in amended claim 8, the hooked ends of the longitudinal or cross wires are directly attached to the outer portion of the respective rail at a socket provided in the outer portion of the rail.

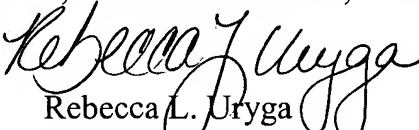
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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

In view of the above amendments, the application is respectfully submitted to be in allowable form. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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